

# Terminalia ivorensis

*Combretaceae*

West Africa

**Ecology:** Many Terminalia are important West African timber trees, including this species. It is exported, from Nigeria for example, under the trade name Idigbo. Introduced into Uganda in the early 1960s, it was planted in the Buto-Buvuma and Semliki forests. The trees have now grown to commercial timber size and seeds can be collected from mature trees.

**Uses:** Firewood, charcoal, timber, shade.

**Description:** A semi-deciduous forest tree reaching 40 m or more with a bole to 1 m and small buttresses. **Branches clearly in whorls and horizontal when young.** BARK: grey and smooth with shallow vertical fissures. LEAVES: simple and whorled, oval and blunt tipped with **orange-brown hairs below and on veins above, also on the short stalk**, 6-7 pairs widely spaced veins, clear below. FLOWERS: small in heads. FRUIT: dry and brown, **two-winged oblong to about 7 cm long and 2 cm across**, oval seed in the centre, 1.5 cm.

**Propagation:** Direct sowing on site, wildings and seedlings.

**Seed:** In order to extract the seeds, collect the fruit in a heap, spray with water and cover with grass or leaves. After a day or so the outer cover becomes soft and the seeds can then be extracted.

**treatment:** After extraction, the seeds should be soaked overnight in cold water and sown the following day.

**storage:** Store as dry fruit.

**Management:** Pruning is not required since later branches die leaving a clean trunk. Fast growing.

**Remarks:** Plant trees with coffee, banana and cocoa. Plant in stands for the timber and fuel. The trees have been illegally felled in Buto-Buvuma forest and burnt for charcoal. It is a useful timber species with yellow-brown wood, similar to oak, which dries quickly and well. It can be similar in weight to mahogany, resists fungi and is moderately resistant to termites. It is very suitable for indoor furniture and floors. It has also proved to be a good shade tree.

